

GROUND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

state governments can encourage land use controls in combination with other measures to protect ground water.

- The limitation on the effectiveness of land use controls is the degree which a critical area is developed prior to enactment of the controls. For this reason, land use controls should be implemented at early stages for vulnerable undeveloped areas.

In the areas reviewed by the committee, information collection has been an ongoing aspect of the land use control program. However, the committee believes that it is neither necessary nor possible to have sufficient data answer all concerns prior to enactment of protective ordinances. These controls can be revised as new data are gathered.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GROUND WATER PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Program Authority, Structure, and Function

Legal Authority and Regulations

Effective state and local ground water protection programs must be based on adequate legal authority and regulations. In the states studied, three distinct bodies of law address ground water resources—state and federal statutory law and state common law. For example, in Connecticut the primary bodies of statutory law on ground water include the state's Clean Water Act, emergency chemical spill statute, hazardous waste statutes, and the Potable Drinking Water Law. In addition, Connecticut's Water Diversions Policy Act regulates withdrawals of ground water through a permit process. Federal statutes that are also applicable to ground water protection include the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), CERCLA ("Superfund") and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, and the Surface Mining Act. Common law in most states provides remedies for parties injured by ground water contamination. The primary causes of action under common law include nuisance, negligence, strict liability, and trespass.

Statutory authority should specify the actions that can be taken by state and local programs to protect ground water and to ensure compliance with program requirements. For example, the statutory provisions found in Connecticut laws include the following:

- State and local preconstruction permit requirements. — State regulation of discharges to ground water.

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